

# Western Medical Center Santa Ana

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To Whom It May Concern:

We applaud OSHPD for promoting hospital quality of care in the State through transparency of mortality data for select surgeries and conditions.

In the OSHPD public release of the 2011 Hospital Inpatient Mortality Indicators, Western Medical Center Santa Ana has the appearance of a higher-than-average mortality rate in the category Acute Stroke mortality rates when compared to the Statewide mortality rate.

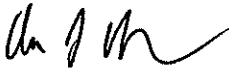
An analysis of our acute stroke patient raw data for 2011 indicates we had 72% ischemic stroke patients and 28% hemorrhagic stroke patients. According to the American Stroke Association, overall 87% of strokes are ischemic, while 13% are hemorrhagic. Western Medical Center Santa Ana had more than double the average percentage of hemorrhagic strokes which carry a much higher mortality risk than ischemic strokes. We attribute this higher rate of hemorrhagic strokes to being a regional trauma center where we receive patients who are "found down" and are determined to have hemorrhagic strokes.

We feel that to more accurately compare mortality rate in acute stroke patients that AHRQ and OSHPD should separate reporting for ischemic stroke and hemorrhagic stroke as their mortality risk is different. To further level the playing field in reporting of Risk-Adjusted Mortality Rates, it should be noted which hospitals are trauma centers versus non-trauma centers. This would provide the public a more accurate picture of mortality risk and rates in acute stroke patients.

Sincerely,



David Lombardi, M.D., Stroke Director  
Western Medical Center Santa Ana



Dan Brothman, CEO  
Western Medical Center Santa Ana

Western Medical Center  
*Celebrating 100 Years of Caring*